A TRVE Declaration of the Honorable Victorie obtained by the French King in winning of *Noyan*, and ouerthrow of the Duke de Maine his Forces.

Performed this preſent moneth of Auguſt,

1591.

Publiſhed according to the Copie ſent into England to the Lord Ambaſſadour for France.

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A DISCOVRSE WRITTEN from the French Kings Campe, lying before Noyan, the viii. day of Auguſt, Anno 1591.

THE town of Noyan being belegur'd by the kinges Maieſtye, was conſtrained to great extremitye: for the reliefe wher of, the L. Vicount Tauanes ſet forwardes towardes the the ſaid towne, and came thither in the night ſeaſon, accompanied with foure hundred horſe, and about fiue hundred footmen: Yet ſuch was his bad ſucceſſe in his pretence for ſuccouring the town of Noyan, that his whol power was broken, ſlaine, diſcomfited, and taken

ken priſoners: and more then that, to the great griefe of the Leagers, himſelf was taken priſoner, and in the aſſault ſore wounded.

This newes being brought to the forces of the Leaguers, cauſed the Duke D'Aumaule to reſolue an attempt for his releaſement: and thereupon hauing aſſembled about fiue hundred horſe, came and made his generall aſſembly in the towne of Han, which is not aboue four leagues from the ſayde Noyan. From whence, on the ſeuenth of Auguſt, hee ſent three hundred of his beſt horſe to the fight, together with a company of Harquebuziers, who went before, and the ſayd Horſemen lingered behind in a village, not farre from the rereward, who ſoon after ſet forward, and gaue a charge vpon the quarter of the Kings light horſe, where they were well receaued. With him there came to the ſaid alarme, the Lords of Largue, and of Lawney, his brother, with their companies, who are of ſome force. Theſe ioyntly ioyned with the light horſemen, greatly ſtrengthned the forces of the leaguers. Neuertheleſſe, after many charges, and ſharpe aſſaults geuen on either part (the Kings ſide alwayes hauing the greateſt likelihood of victorie) both the companies began to retire.

At which retire came in that valiant ſoldier

and

and honourable man at armes, the Lord Baron of Biron, who albeit that he was not accompanied with aboue twelue of his own men, yet the Kings forces ſuppoſing he had brought in ſome ſtore of freſh ſoldiers, ſo ſoone as they once heard him named, took a wonderful and vnſpeakeable courage, and ſeeing him in the midſt of them, they gaue a freſh charge vpon the enemie, in ſuch ſort, and with ſuch force, that they did driue the enemie euen into the gates of Han, from whence they had iſſued. To whom there was alſo comming a new ſuccor, and freſh ſupply of men, who perceiuing the euill ſucceſſe of the reſt, returned in the forefrunt, ſo that ſome of the kings maieſties forces followed them euen into their barriours.

This fight was great, for there were at the leaſt twelue ſeuerall charges and aſſaultes geuen, in which there was ſome ſtore of armed men ſlaine on the enemies ſide, with diuers of their Captains. Among whom was ſlayn Don Franciſco of Gueuara, the beſt captain of light horſemen that the king of Spayne had in the low Countreys. The Lieutenant to the ſayde Franciſco de Gueuara, was alſo ſlayn outright. It is ſuppoſed that the Lieutenant to the Gouernor of Han was alſo taken and ſlaine, with ſundrie other of great account.

The Lord of Long-champ, one of the beſt and moſt aduenturous Captaines, is alſo taken priſoner, with aboue fourſcore men at armes of account, and diuers Leaders, and Lieutenants of the horſemen: who all confeſſe, that they were hardly beſtead, hotly encountred and aſſaulted by men of courage, and great valour. Yea this ouerthrow coſt them deare: for there was taken and ſlaine of the enemies aboue fifteen hundred horſe, who were not of the worſt, but of their chiefeſt horſe and horſmen.

On the Kings Maieſties ſide there was ſlaine about a doſſen horſes, which were of his light horſemen. Amongeſt whom the Marſhall of the companie was ſlaine: his death is greatly bewayled, foraſmuch as he was a man of great valor, and wonderfull courage.

The Duke de Maine arriued on the ſeuenth day of Auguſt, at the towne of Han, with all troupes of horſemen which he could gather: Of whom it need not be doubted, but that hee is of the opinion to recouer this loſſe, and to ſpeed better then the reſt of his chief captains did before him. Wherein if it may pleaſe God he fayle in his opinion, and obteine but the like ſucceſſe, his forces would ſhortly be weakned, and his faction for the moſt parte confounded.

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This one thing is worthy the noting, that all men are now more willing to goe againſt him and his troupes, then they were againſt thoſe that came firſt. And it may very well be, that ſith the Duke de Main is not content with the two firſt loſſes and conflicts which hee receiued, that the next may worke ſome greater effect: for it was likely (being then ſo neere together as they were) that they ſhould hardly part againe without comming neerer in viewe and battel one of the other.

In the meane ſpace the Kings Maieſty loſt no time about the ſiege of this towne: For on this day, being the ſeuenth day of Auguſt, the Canon beganne to play vpon a Church that ſtandeth in the midſt of the ſuburbs, which together with a great ditch, did ſtrongly defend the ſame: wherby it is not found much weaker then the towne: the taking whereof could not but miniſter great occaſion of aduauntage, wherof the Kings Maieſtie was in good hope. Neuertheleſſe, he was couſtrayned to leaue of and to reſtraine the forraine power which came vnto him from Germanie and England, who in moſt honourable ſort are entered the Realme.

The Church aforeſaide hauing receiued the force of the Canon, which played vpon it from morning vntill three of the clocke in the

after noone, had by that time a great breache made into the ſame: By meanes whereof, the Church was ſoone taken by a fierce aſſault made by the French and Engliſh companies. In which breach there was ſlayne about the number of thirtie enemies, beſides whom there was to the number of fourty and fiue, that were retired into the vaultes of the ſayde Church, who yeelded themſelues vnto the mercie of the Kinges Maieſtie. And thereupon hee immediately graunted them their liues, and likewiſe liberty to depart with bag and baggage.

The aſſaultes of the towne, and winning of this Church, was the meanes for taking the Suburbs, and therefore a thing preiudiciall to the towne, not onelye in reſpecte of the anoyance which the Kings forces did offer the enemie: but alſo for the men of war that were there ſlayne, of which the towne was but meanely and ſlenderly furniſhed at the time of their yeelding.

His Maieſtie is aduertiſed that Roſue, who ledde the Duke de Maine his army towardes Lorraine, is returned towards Laon, to which place the Duke is gone to ioyne with him, to the ende that they together might ſuccour the ſaid towne. By meanes wherof, there is likelihood of a great battaile and conflict very

ſhortly

ſhortly to be geuen to the Duke de Maine, the rather, in reſpect that his Maieſtie, and all the Nobilitie about him, ſtand very reſolutely in his defence.

The Compoſition enſuing was concluded on *the ſeuenteenth day of Auguſt*, 1591.

VPon the ſeuenteenth day of Auguſt, 1591. the Lord of Ville, commander in Noyan, as wel for himſelfe, as for all the Gentlemen, Soldiers, and other Inhabitantes of the ſayd Town, hath promiſed to yeeld the ſaid town of Noyã into the king his hands, vpon munday next following by Noone, together with all the artillerie, the Munition for warre, and victuals, which at that preſent time was therein: vnleſſe that on the morrow (being Sunday) ſometime of the day, the Duke de Maine doe giue his Maieſtie battaile, and ſo raiſe his ſiege: or at leaſt, that the Duke de Maine doe put in a thouſand men by force, to ſuccour the ſaid Towne of Noyan, that then the ſaid Lord of Ville, the Gentlemen and Captaines, with their armour, horſes and baggage, and the Souldiers with their weapons and horſe, ſhall depart, and the Inhabitants (doing their dueties,) ſhalbe receaued into the Kings fauour, and intreated as his other good Subiects, that dwell and remaine in his other Townes.

That the ſaid Lord of Villes mother, may freelye remaine in the ſaid Town, and enioy her goods, vpon perfourming the ſubmiſſion of loyall fidelitie as is accuſtomed of all his loyall Subiects.

Item, that if any of the Inhabitants of the ſayde towne be deſirous to depart, that they ſhall lawfullye depart among the men of warre.

That the ſaid Lord of Ville ſhalbe permitted to ſende the Lord of Broully to the ſaid Duke of Maine, to aduertiſe him of the premiſſes, and that the King ſhall ſafe conduct him to that effect.

To the accompliſhment of the premiſſes, the ſaide L. of Ville hath alſo promiſed to deliuer for Hoſtages, to his Maieſtie, the Lorde of Rieulx, the Abbot of Genlis, with four of the chiefe of the Towne, ſuch as his Maieſtie ſhall chooſe. All which perſons his Maieſtie doeth promiſe vpon performance of the former conditions, to deliuer.

His Maieſtie alſo graunteth to ſende two Captens into the Towne, to ſee and keepe them during the ſaid time, from labouring to the contrarie.

Geuen the xvij. of Auguſt. 1591.

Signed HENRIE.

And vnderneath. RVZE.

Ville de Rieulx. La Chautrie. Browly.

VPon the xix. day following, the ſaide compoſition was put in effect as is aforeſaid, and his Maieſtie hauing aduiſe that the enemy retired vpon *la Fere*, preſently reſolued to depart after midnight with xij. hundred horſe and foure hundred harguebuziers on horſebacke, the Lord Marſhall of Biron being of the troupe, to the end to croſſe and meete with the enimie by the waie betweene la Fere and Loan, and to charge him in the march:

there was great apparance, had the aduice bin true. Herevpon his Maieſtie returned the ſayd Lord Marſhall, and retained with himſelfe only ſixe hundred horſe and the ſaide harguebuziers, and ſo marched toward Han, where the Duke of Maine remained yet with his ſayd armie, where his ſaid Maieſtie ſtayed almoſt two houres in battel in his ſight within canon ſhot, whereof there were ſome ſhot diſcharged without anie loſſe, neither woulde there iſſue anie perſon, except one cornet of horſemen, which had the riuer of Some before them. Thus the Duke choſe rather to abide this ſhame, than to ſeeke to reuenge the firſt. Euen againſt the towne there was alſo a Corps de gard of Spaniards, who were diſplaced by eight Gentlemen that alighted. On another ſide there were ſome twelue that aduentured too farre, whom four Gentlemen (of whom Sir R. Williams was one) purſued, and made them turne their faces, except one of the chiefeſt, that belonged to the duke d'Aumal, who remaineth priſoner.

His Maieſtie on the twentieth of Auguſt marched toward Giſors, there to receaue the right honourable Earle of Eſſex, and ſo immediately to ioyne with the great power of Germanes, who are already entred into Fraunce, by Gods grace to work ſome great effect, with the ayde of the honourable, warlike, and forward Leaders, and Gentlemen of England.

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THE EPILOGVE.

THis former discourse (gentle reader) is not forged or fained, as some perhaps for malice will pecuisly report: neither is it fetched from flying and fabulous letters, ordinarie reports on the Exchange, or published vpon rash warrant, as some, I know, will not stick to vtter: but the same is set forth for such credit as cānot be disproued, being agreeable to the intelligence sent from his Maiestie into England, to the Lord Ambassador for Fraunce. And although the same bee not published with such eloquent phrases as some newes which hath lately been e published, yet will I assure you (if both were examined by the wisest) that this is of more trueth, and without error, notwithstanding that much trueth was promised, and little found but vntrueth. For reformatiō whereof, be assured there is sufficient order taken, that no newes whatsoeuer, shall hereafter passe in print, but that which is certain, and knowen to be true.

Besides this, you shall very shortly haue published the good successe which the Lord Prince of Countie hath had in another part of Fraunce, in the behalfe of the French king: where he hath put a great number of the Leaguers to the foyle. The maner of which

battaile

battaile ſhalbe particularlie publiſhed, being tranſlated out of the French printed Copie, with his Maieſties owne letter ſent vnto the ſaid Prince of Countie, together with the honourable letter of Sir Roger Willyams, in the behalfe of his Countrey, ſent vnto the Collonels and Captaines of Paris, challenging them to the combat, in reſpect of ſome falſe rumors giuen foorth by them againſt Engliſh companies, which therin is plainely layd open.